

FALLON COUNTY ATTORNEY

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March 26, 2007

Representative Bob Lake, Chair
House Taxation Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: HB 832

Dear Chairman Lake and Members of the Committee,

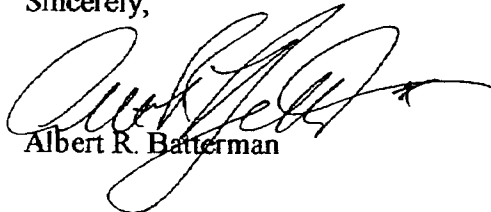
I have been directed by the Fallon County Commission to prepare the following statement on behalf of Fallon County in regard to the above bill.

The Fallon County Commission created an Industrial District utilizing tax increment financing in November, 2005. The Montana Department of Revenue has to date refused to acknowledge the district, however, and the matter is currently being litigated. Given the importance of tax increment financing to the development of the local industrial infrastructure, Fallon County has monitored the development of any new TIF legislation with great interest.

Fallon County does not oppose HB 832 so long as the language of Section 26 of the bill remains intact and the Fallon County industrial district, like all other TIF districts formed as of December 31, 2006, is intended to be covered by that language. This is a matter of great significance to our local economy and we request that the hearing record be made clear that the Fallon County industrial district is covered by Section 26 of the bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. Please advise if the committee members would like any further information from Fallon County on this matter and I will give your request my immediate attention.

Sincerely,



Albert R. Batterman

cc: Fallon County Commission